

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1 (Previously Presented). A permanently fireproof flame guard having a flow cross section that terminates a conduit, in which there is a flame guard insert having a large number of passage gaps ensuring that it is permanently fireproof, characterized in that, within the flow cross section, at least one concentric solid annular section is formed so as to be solid without the passage gaps, and that on both sides of said at least one solid annular section there are annular sections having the passage gaps, wherein said at least one solid annular section is sufficiently sized to dissipate heat in the concentric region within the flow cross section.
- 1 2 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the cross-sectional area of the flame guard insert with the passage gaps is greater than the cross-sectional area without passage gaps.
- 1 3 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a centrally arranged core is provided as a concentric section.
- 1 4 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the concentric section and the at least one solid annular section is formed of a highly thermally conductive material.
- 1 5 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in

2 claim 1, characterized in that, within the flow cross section, a plurality of solid
3 annular sections are provided as concentric sections, which are in each case
4 followed in the radial direction by annular sections with passage gaps.

1 6 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in
2 claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the concentric section and the at
3 least one solid annular section is formed from a smooth metal strip wound
4 spirally closely on itself.

1 7 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in
2 claim 6, characterized in that the passage gaps of the flow cross section are
3 formed by a corrugated metal strip wound together spirally with a smooth
4 metal strip.

1 8 (Previously Presented). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in
2 claim 1, characterized in that the flow cross section has an annular form.

1 9 (New). A permanently fireproof flame guard having a flow cross section that
2 terminates a conduit, in which there is a flame guard insert having a plurality
3 of flame guard sections arranged concentrically in relation to one another and
4 divided radially from one another by concentric solid annular sections, each of
5 the plurality of flame guard sections having a large number of passage gaps
6 ensuring that it is permanently fireproof, and within the flow cross section, the
7 solid annular sections are formed so as to be solid without the passage gaps,
8 and that on both sides of each said solid annular section there are annular
9 sections having the passage gaps, wherein said solid annular sections are metal
10 and sufficiently sized to dissipate heat in the concentric region within the flow
11 cross section.

1 10 (New). The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 9,
2 wherein the flame guard sections comprise a spiral winding of a flame guard
3 which is formed from a common winding of a corrugated metal strip with a
4 smooth metal strip and solid annular sections are formed inside the circular
5 area of the flow cross section by a plurality of annular concentric sections
6 which are produced by the smooth metal strip being wound without the
7 corrugated metal strip.

1 11 (New).The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 10,
2 further comprising in the middle of the flow cross section a concentric section
3 in the form of a central core, which is a solid insert of a highly thermally
4 conductive metal, whereby in the flow cross section, adjacent to the concentric
5 solid annular sections, in each case flame guard sections are formed which
6 have flow gaps whose areas are limited, so that excessive heating of the flame
7 guard sections can be avoided reliably.